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**Subject:** RE: West Fertilizer, West Texas - Response fr J. McCoy  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 06, 2013 1:05:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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John,  
I just returned from being out of state for 10 days and saw your email. In order to conduct a meaningful and complete site investigation at the West fertilizer plant site, additional time and access to the site are necessary. The planned release of the site



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to salvage on Monday, August 5, 2013 would prevent and jeopardize my experts' ability to conduct such an investigation. We have not been provided any prior history of the plant's operations and need to know of any fires that have occurred at the site prior to the explosion. By fire, I mean any event that required the use of water or a fire extinguisher to bring it under control. We also need to know whether any of the earlier fires required or involved fire fighting equipment outside of the plant or were able to be contained by the employees inside of the plant as well as the location of each fire. This is especially the case if there was a fire on site earlier in the day on August 5 before the plant was shut down and the employees left. From this information, an assessment can be made and more detailed evaluations of the plant site can be drawn up and undertaken to try and better understand all of the variables that have impacted the plant and their locations.

The reason for such information and a more in-depth site investigation is based on the fact that such plant operations are susceptible to fires in and around the various operations, including the grain elevators and conveyer systems that transfer the grains and possibly other materials within in the plant. The owner and/or supervisory personnel can provide at least a description and sketch of the operations of the plant and a listing of the equipment present at the time of the fire since the claim is made that all engineering drawings have been lost in the event. Any fires that occurred before the time of the fire and explosion on April 17, 2013 around 7:50 P.M. CDT should be made available. With this information one can then develop a more detailed and focused evaluation and investigation of the site, including the areas of the earlier fires.

I understand the extensive damage to the site and the desire to clear the surrounding fields of debris from the plant, but I do not understand the rush for salvage of the entire plant area. This only serves to reduce the opportunity to more fully understand what caused this incident. Other than the cost for a guard at the site, the cost is minimal to keep the plant site available for further investigation. The time for the additional investigation work should not be excessive but will likely take several months based on the need to first gather information and then prepare a plan for a more in-depth investigation of the site.



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**Subject:** West Fertilizer, West Texas - Response fr J. McCoy

All:

Attached is the response from Mr. McCoy to Mr. Klick's objection of August 2, 2013.

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